



# NEWS RELEASE

**Arizona House of Representatives**

**House Majority Leader Warren Petersen (R-12)**

**House Speaker Pro Tempore T.J. Shope (R-8)**

**Representative Kelly Townsend (R-16)**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Signed Budget Includes Funding for Attorney General's Elections Integrity Unit**

**STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX** – House Majority Leader Warren Petersen (R-12), House Speaker Pro Tempore T.J. Shope (R-8), and House Elections Committee Chair Kelly Townsend (R-16) today praised funding included in the budget for the creation of an Elections Integrity Unit in the Attorney General's office.

The budget the Legislature passed last week adds \$530,000 to the baseline funding for the Arizona Attorney General's office for the Elections Integrity Unit. The new division will consist of four full time employees who can investigate any claims of election fraud.

**"There is no room for error when it comes to integrity of and trust in our electoral process,"** said Representative Petersen. **"Having a unit within the Attorney General's office dedicated to investigating claims of election fraud will give voters confidence that election integrity is being taken seriously and our elections are fair and legitimate."**

**"Election fraud is a serious crime that undermines confidence in our democracy, and it only makes sense that our state's chief law enforcement officer would oversee these investigations,"** said Representative Shope. **"Whether this unit finds merit in claims of election fraud or finds that our elections are free of such violations, the result will be increased voter confidence in our electoral process."**

**"It's the job of our Secretary of State to administer elections and the job of our Attorney General to investigate and prosecute potential crimes,"** said Representative Townsend.

**"Arizona has fortunately not experienced extensive reports of voter fraud, and the Elections Integrity Unit will ensure that it stays that way."**

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